



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Intermountain
Region

324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401

7/123/05

Reply to: 2320/2810

Date: JUN 22 1991

RECEIVED

JUL 18 1991

DIVISION OF
OIL GAS & MINING

Mr. Gary Macfarlane
Conservation Director
Utah Wilderness Association
455 East 400 South, #306
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Dear Mr. Macfarlane:

Thank you for your letter and accompanying photographs expressing your concerns about the management of the Mt. Nebo Wilderness.

Our goal has always been, and continues to be, to do what is best for the resource while allowing legitimate activities to occur in the Mt. Nebo Wilderness. As such, we have made the following decisions:

1. In the case of the illegal entry into the Wilderness, a violation notice has been issued, and we will continue to prosecute the case.

2. Concerning the locks, we have decided not to remove them but to remind the lock owners of their responsibilities. We do not feel changing the locks will result in a decrease in violations, and it may actually increase abuse by creating animosity toward the Government. It is our opinion that the best way to prevent violations is to inform all wilderness users of the proper use of wilderness and wilderness regulations. We support the Uinta National Forest in their endeavors to do such.

3. Concerning management of mining activities on Bob Steele's claim within the Mt. Nebo Wilderness, we have decided to work with the responsible individuals to assure resource protection and reclamation, rather than issuing a citation. Mr. Steele is responsible for his actions and will be held liable for reclamation and resource damage. Prior to completing the special use permit and reclamation plan for the mining operations it will be necessary to complete the NEPA process, which includes the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

We hope we have addressed your concerns. We appreciate your desire to express your views and hope you will continue to be involved with management of National Forest System lands.

Sincerely,

Sr Robert C. Reynolds
GRAY F. REYNOLDS
Regional Forester



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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